

**Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes**

May 25, 2006
4:00 p.m.

Llano Seco Ranch
Chico, CA

Chair Glenn Hawes called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., followed by self-introductions. It was determined there was a quorum of voting members present (underlined).

<u>County</u>	<u>Public Interest</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Butte	<u>Jane Dolan</u>	<u>Shirley Lewis</u>	
Colusa	<u>Gary Evans</u>	<u>Ben Carter</u>	
Glenn	<u>Denny Bungarz</u>	<u>Don Anderson</u>	
Shasta	<u>Glenn Hawes</u>	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	(Dan Silva)	<u>Russell Young</u>	
Tehama	(Ron Warner)	<u>Brendon Flynn</u>	
Yolo	<u>Lynnel Pollock</u>	(Marc Faye)	
Resources Agency			<u>Jim McKeivitt</u>
DWR			Stacy Cepello
DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			Lady Bug Doherty
USFWS			Catrina Martin
USCOE			(Brandon Muncy)
Bureau of Reclamation			(Basia Trout)

Names listed in parentheses represent absences

SRCAF: Manager Burt Bundy, Assistant Ellen Gentry, Resource Conservationist Beverley Anderson-Abbs

Other identified attendees: Al Wright, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB); John Donnelly, WCB; John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust (SRPT); Woody Elliott, Department of Parks and Recreation; Dan Efseaff, River Partners (RP); Christiana Conser, RP; Suellen Rowilson, RP; Gregg Werner, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Jay Chamberlain, Resources Agency; Kevin Foerster, US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS); Kelly Moroney, USFWS; Luana Kiger, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); Jeff Sutton, Family Water Alliance; Armand Gonzales, Department of Fish and Game (DFG); Banky Curtis, DF&G; Tina Cannon, DFG; Paul Ward, DFG; Sandy Morey, DFG; Rebecca Fris, CA Bay Delta Authority; Clark Frentzen, US Army Corps of Engineers.

2. Unscheduled matters

The SRCAF Advisory Council members were given recognition at this time.

3. Consent Calendar

The following changes were made to the March 16, 2006 board meeting notes:

1) Ben Carter revised page 2, item 5, second paragraph, first sentence to read: "Ben Carter clarified a statement, made by Brendon Flynn at the March 2 GNP Committee meeting in Willows, that he was not the author of the GNP – it was the Landowners Assurances Committee."

2) Diana Jacobs revised page 2, item 5, last paragraph, last sentence to read: "Diana Jacobs added arbitration and mediation are always preferable to litigation."

3) Via email Basia Trout asked to change her Agency Report on page 2, second sentence to read: "At the Red Bluff Diversion Dam a fourth pump is being installed to increase the amount of irrigation water provided to the Tehama-Colusa Canal from the Sacramento River, and it should be operational by this summer."

Jane Dolan moved to adopt the minutes of the March 16, 2006 meeting with the above changes, seconded by Jim McKeivitt. Motion passed by unanimous vote. The Executive Committee notes were accepted by consensus.

4. Agency Reports

John Merz announced that the Llano Seco Ranch Conservation Easement Acquisition has been finalized. A celebration will be held June 28, 10:00-2:00 at Llano Seco Ranch.

Diana Jacobs gave a brief review of the CALFED transition taking place and the Bay Delta conservation plan using permitting development in Southern California for water. They are at the end point of Stage 1. She recommended keeping in touch with further development via their website. Sandy Morey, DFG Region II Director, was introduced as Diana's replacement on the Board.

Denny Bungarz reported that the House passed the water bill today, including \$6 million for USACE involvement in flood control projects.

Catrina Martin, USFWS, reported on the close of comments for Del Rio Safe Harbor Agreement. They are moving to finalize a safe harbor agreement and have a signing on for VELB protection in the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed, June 8, in Lodi. This two year process covers the entire watershed and riparian corridors along the river. For more information, go to the USFWS website.

John Merz, SRPT, noted the difficulty for the general public and non-profits to review such projects (i.e., safe harbors) and suggested a site be posted on the SRCAF website for notification before completion, as a public service.

Luana Kiger, NRCS, gave an update on the approved National Partnership grant and grants to local Resource Conservation Districts. Grants were provided to Tehama, Sutter and Yolo counties. The Conservation Security program included two northern watersheds this year with direct payment to farmers. Conservation innovation grants will fund six to seven projects. Luana provided several handouts and recommended visiting their website for more information.

5. Report, Discussion and Possible Action for Good Neighbor Policy

GNP Committee Chair Brendan Flynn reviewed the final draft of the GNP and discussed comments that were received and incorporated. He noted that the committee had worked long and hard to incorporate most of the comments received. He thanked the committee members and also those that had provided comments to the committee.

Brendan Flynn moved and Denny Bungarz seconded to adopt the policy as it stands.

Discussion ensued: Normal farming operations are not considered land use changes and do not require SRCAF review. The GNP is SRCAF board policy only. Counties have different definitions of Ag use or resource conservation use, so within the GNP there is flexibility to allow for each county's land use plan requirements/elements (Tina Cannon gave an example of state open space under state law). The GNP is a planning policy that needs to be general and broad for all counties; permitting agencies deal with calculating cumulative effects and analyses.

Shirley Lewis was not in favor, and expressed difficulty in being able to compare the old GNP with the current draft. She wanted to know what changes were made and why.

Lynnel Pollock noted that much progress has been made on the GNP. She noted the document recognizes the area to work on, which is problematic for a non-profit to address with public source funding. The SRCAF has been criticized by not moving forward in the past. She recommended moving forward.

There was discussion that Section 5, concerning a Good Neighbor Fund, would require more work, although Jim McKeivitt indicated the board should adopt the policy as is, with promise to work on #5. John Merz added that the policy is a work in progress and noted that part of being a good neighbor is showing good faith. Gregg Werner agreed that it served as a road map that charts future course(s). Catrina Martin noted that regulatory agencies legally have a problem with #5, and being part of that would be difficult, as too much detail could create concerns for agencies. Brendon added that the policy document points in the direction of overriding principle and stating goals that are recognized. The communication is clear, to have a solid policy in place on these issues.

Ben Carter recommended codifying and making the document part of record as a White Paper, connoting work in progress. Lynnel pointed out that sections 1 and 2 of the original GNP have been combined as #1 in this document, and are already adopted.

Jim McKeivitt asked the Colusa representatives that if they supported the adoption of the GNP as a white paper; since they made the recommendation, would they still oppose the Colusa Subreach Planning project? Jeff Sutton indicated that the CSP would not be supported even if the GNP is adopted as policy.

Brendon moved and Denny Bungarz seconded to amend the original motion to adopt the GNP as a White Paper document. Motion passed with one No vote – Shirley Lewis.

6. Board Committee Reports

In regard to Colusa Subreach Planning (CSP) projects, Burt reported that legal counsel had reviewed the issue and pointed out that SRCAF County Review Policy # 1 references proposals, not ongoing projects. The CSP project is a planning process which allows for local input. Counsel also noted that the SRCAF and TNC are currently under contract(s) and legally committed.

Stacy Cepello gave a TAC update. Jane Dolan moved to send a letter of support noting Brayton Property Restoration, Project Tracker #96, met the principles and guidelines of the SRCAF. Denny Bungarz seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. Future Meeting Dates

The next SRCAF Board meeting is scheduled for July 20, at the Monday Afternoon Club in Willows.

Special acknowledgements were given to the following for their assistance at today's meeting and annual BBQ: Richard Thieriot, Owner, Llano Seco Ranch; Dave Sieperda, Manager, Llano Seco Ranch; Glenn Hawes and Rick Elefant, Chefs and contributors to the dinner menu; Joyce Bundy and Pat Brown, Catering; Dan Efseaff, River Partners, Kelly Moroney, USFWS, and John Garner and Lance Boyd, PCGPID, Tour Guides; Willows Volunteer Fire Department and Denny Bungarz, tables and chairs.

Burt Bundy made a presentation to Diana Jacobs in appreciation of her involvement with the SRCAF board since its inception. Banky Curtis, DFG Regional Manager, read a resolution dedicated to Diana. Diana is retiring from DFG after 20+ years with the state. Her family was in attendance at today's meeting. Diana will be replaced on the SRCAF board by Sandy Morey, DFG.